

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 643

By Jackson

A RESOLUTION memorializing the United States Congress to act affirmatively on certain sportsmen's issues.

WHEREAS, the Department of Interior's policy prohibiting law-abiding citizens from transporting or carrying firearms on lands controlled by the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service should be amended to conform to the policies of other federal land management agencies that allow citizens to transport their firearms on public lands; and

WHEREAS, law-abiding gun owners face inconsistencies in firearms regulations that are confusing, burdensome, and unnecessary when it comes to transporting and carrying their firearms on and through National Park Service lands and National Wildlife Refuges, and such policies and regulations should be amended to reflect our citizen's Second Amendment rights; and

WHEREAS, although the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus has provided leadership by taking command of an issue that denies honest sportsmen their rights under the Second Amendment, the entire membership of the United States Congress should act affirmatively to safeguard sportsmen's rights in this matter; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress should also act affirmatively to provide funding for African conservation programs supported by hunting; and

WHEREAS, the benefit to Africa through the USAID conservation projects significantly reduces poaching, and creates incentives for local inhabitants to perpetuate biodiversity on hundreds of millions of acres; and

WHEREAS, in twenty-three African countries that allow licensed, regulated hunting, approximately 18,500 hunters generate over \$200 million annually in remote rural areas; and

WHEREAS, tourist hunting has proven to be a valuable tool to conserve wildlife and habitat and has contributed to the survival of the African elephant, white and black rhino, leopard, markhor, argali and other species; and

WHEREAS, hunting organizations have a vested interest in promoting the welfare of wildlife, and they provide countless resources that eliminate human suffering and improve livelihoods in remote areas of the world by conserving wildlife, growing local economies, and reducing poverty; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that this General Assembly hereby memorializes the United States Congress to protect our sportsmen's Second Amendment rights by enacting legislation to permit law-abiding citizens to transport and carry firearms on lands controlled by the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service, just as they are permitted to do on other federal public lands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge and encourage the United States Congress to provide funding for USAID African conservation projects and programs supported by hunting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation.